4: Lorimer L-3 (1920-4; 1934-5) 1935 AV7 Burusho AV7

No. III.

[49]

Buzur Jamhūr and Alqash Wazīr.

Kubād was King of Madāin and Alqash was wazīr. Alqash had a friend, Bakht-i-Jamāl. Bakht-i-Jamāl had married the daughter of Jamas Hakīm. There was a book called the Jamasnāma. Jamas gave it to his daughter as her dowry. She brought it to her home for Bakht-i-Jamāl to see. He could understand nothing of it. He was unable to read the book. There was a great scholar and Bakht-i-Jamāl took the book to him (and said:) "O sage, I am unable (to read) this book. Will you instruct me in it?" "Bring it here," said the learned man, and Jamas gave it to him. The man of learning looked at it. He too was unable (to read it), to him too it was unintelligible. "O Bakht-i-Jamāl," said he: "I also can make nothing of it." "Well," said Bakht-i-Jamāl, as it is unintelligible, leave it there. What are we to do with it? I too cannot understand it?"

Alqash Wazīr and Bakht-i-Jamāl were bosom friends (lit. 'soul's friends'). Alqash Wazīr, before going to salām to the King, used to go and salām to his friend. Then, having looked on his friend's

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4 *ormanimi* — *ev atimi* is given as an alternative.

8 *aiyermai.i bai* — 'he is not able' (sc. 'to read it'). This absolute use of °-AMARAS is common.

açučila = *a* + *jučila*, — 'it does not come

9 *beićan?* = *be ečan?*

11 *ornin* — 'he not going'.

4: Lorimer L-3 (1920-4; 1934-5) 1935 AV7 Burusho AV7

face, he used to go and salām to the King." So dear were they to each other. They were devoted to each other. 539x 572

One day Alqash Wazīr came to salām to Bakht-i-Jamāl. Saluming him he looked at him, he looked at him with an unfavourable eye. "O friend," said Bakht-i-Jamāl, "why do you look at me today with an unfavourable eye?" "O friend," (replied Alqash) "the day of your death has come. You are going to die. It is for this reason that I look at you with repugnance." Alqash Wazīr was versed in astrological calculations and Bakht-i-Jamāl was alarmed for his life. "I am going to die then," he thought, and he said: "O friend, this that you say is true, but may I perchance escape by some device?" "Friend," said Alqash, "there is one thing, and if you and I can do it, you will escape. If we cannot do it you will die." "O beloved friend, what is it that we cannot do?" "Beloved friend," said Alqash, "for 40 days do not come out of your house, do not speak to anyone, do not look at the face of anyone, let no one look at you, let no one speak to you, let no one hear you speak, and do not you listen to anyone speaking. If you remain (thus) one day more than the 40 then you will die, and if you go out one day too soon, before 40 days are completed, you will die. When exactly 40 days are up, if you go out of your house, you will not die." 539x

Bakht-i-Jamāl was overjoyed. "O beloved friend," said he, "this is a very easy matter. On which day shall I (begin to) stay in the house?" "Stay in today," said Alqash. "Friend, give my wife instructions and advise her how she is to give me food and how she is to give me water." "Bring her here, friend." Bakht-i-Jamāl brought his wife and Alqash Wazīr said: "My sister, give ear to what I say. It is a very serious matter. Make my friend stay in the house. Sit yourself in the upper verandah. Take care not to speak. Take care not to look down. (To Bakht-i-Jamāl) Friend, do not speak. Do not look up. Let her send down food and water to you at the proper time, letting it down on something through the smoke-hole, and do you eat the food and drink the